

# INDIATOBACCONWATCH (ITW) – Newsletter

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## **HEADLINES OF THE MONTH:**

- ❖ *Beedi baron re-nominated in committee on sub-ordinate legislation for another year*
- ❖ *Rajasthan High court orders Centre to implement larger pictorial warning on tobacco products by October 2015; Government sets April 2016 as the new date*
- ❖ *ITC co-organised Sustainability summit attended by Union ministers and UN organization representatives*
- ❖ *Roundtable consultation on stopping tobacco industry interference conducted*
- ❖ *Anti-tobacco forum writes to Speakers of Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha to prevent conflict of interest in Parliamentary panels*
- ❖ *Uttar Pradesh government raised VAT on all tobacco products to 40% except beedi and banned sale of loose cigarettes*

## **BEEDI BARON RENOMINATED IN COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION FOR ANOTHER YEAR**

Despite the uproar over the conflict of interest issue, the committee on subordinate legislation which delayed the implementation of larger pictorial warnings on tobacco products continues for another year. There has been no change in membership and the beedi baron Shyama Charan Gupta still continues in the panel.

## **RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT ORDERS CENTRE TO IMPLEMENT LARGER PICTORIAL WARNINGS BY OCTOBER 2015; GOVERNMENT SETS APRIL 2016 AS THE NEW DATE**

The Rajasthan High court has ordered the Centre to ensure that larger pictorial warnings are to be carried on all tobacco products by October 29<sup>th</sup> or face contempt of court charges. A notification released now by Health ministry has delayed and set April 1 2016 as the date for implementation of 85% pictorial warnings on tobacco products.

## **ITC CO-ORGANIZED SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT ATTENDED BY UNION MINISTERS AND UN ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES**

Cigarette major ITC – CII run Centre for Sustainable Development (CESD) organized a sustainability summit which was attended by union ministers, officials from various government departments and representatives from various UN organizations like UNDP, UNEP.

## **ROUNDTABLE CONSULTATION ON STOPPING TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE CONDUCTED**

The states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Sikkim, Karnataka, Bihar, Kerala and Chandigarh joined hands for a 'Roundtable consultation on stopping tobacco industry's interference in tobacco control'. The two day consultation was attended by health ministers or officials from seven states and Chandigarh.

*Dr Rana J Singh, Technical Advisor with the Union government, said that the objectives of this consultation are to understand the ways of tobacco industry's interference in tobacco control programme and to formulate a comprehensive policy.*

## **ANTI-TOBACCO FORUM WRITES TO SPEAKERS OF LOK SABHA AND RAJYA SABHA TO PREVENT CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN PARLIAMENTARY PANEL**

Advocacy Forum for Tobacco Control (AFTC) constituted by 65 pan-India tobacco control NGO's has sent letters to Speakers of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and political parties regarding the conflict of interest in nominating members for various parliamentary committees.

*Tshering Bhutia of Salaam Bombay Foundation said, "We are writing in response to the recent reconstitution of the Lok Sabha parliamentary committee on subordinate legislation. Recent media reports suggest that members from last year's committee have been re-appointed for another year's term"*

## **UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNMENT RAISES VAT ON ALL TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND BANS SALE OF LOOSE CIGARETTE**

Uttar Pradesh government has raised Value Added Tax (VAT) on all tobacco products to 40% from existing 25% on cigarettes and 30% on pan masala. It has also banned the sale of loose cigarettes in the state. Beedi's have kept out of this hike.

**IndiaTobaccoWatch (ITW)** is an initiative by organizations working in tobacco control across India to monitor and counter the activities of tobacco industry. Spread the word.

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